

access control providing a connection to the media interface, a buffer manager operationally coupled with the media access controller, and a memory operationally coupled with the buffer manager, wherein the memory includes a receive buffer memory having a plurality of segments, and the media access control is configured to perform a filtering operation on incoming frame data from the media interface, said method comprising the steps of:

A1 receiving first frame data from the network at the media access control, passing the first frame data from the media interface to the buffer manager if the filtering operation performed on the first frame data by the media access control passes said first frame data, receiving second frame data from the network at the media access control, and passing the second frame data from the media interface to the buffer manager if the filtering operation performed on the second frame data by the media access control passes said second frame data;

writing the first frame data from the buffer manager to a first segment of the receive buffer memory;

writing the second frame data from the buffer manager to a second segment of the receive buffer memory; and

reading the first frame data from the first segment of the receive buffer memory simultaneous to the step of writing the second frame data.

Remarks:

Claims 14-21 of the parent application were finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,796,944 ("Hill") in view of U.S. Patent 5,805,816 ("Picazo"), and then cancelled from the parent application. Claims 14-21 as hereby amended, is believed to be clearly patentable over Hill in view of Picazo.

Claims 1-4 and 7-13 of the parent application were finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hill in view of U.S. Patent 5,826,015 ("Schmidt").

Applicant is pursuing an appeal from the final rejection of claims 1-4 and 7-13 of the parent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

14. (Amended) A method for operating a network interface suitable for receiving frame data from a network via a media interface, the network interface comprising a media access control providing a connection to the media interface, a buffer manager operationally coupled with the media access controller, and a memory operationally coupled with the buffer manager, wherein the memory includes a receive buffer memory having a plurality of segments, and the media access control is configured to perform a filtering operation on incoming frame data from the media interface, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving first frame data from the network at the media access control, passing the first frame data from the media interface to the buffer manager if the filtering operation performed on the first frame data by the media access control passes said first frame data, [and] receiving second frame data from [a] the network at the media access control, and passing the second frame data from the media interface to the buffer manager if the filtering operation performed on the second frame data by the media access control passes said second frame data;

writing the first frame data from the buffer manager to a first segment of the receive buffer memory;

writing the second frame data from the buffer manager to a second segment of the receive buffer memory; and

reading the first frame data from the first segment of the receive buffer memory simultaneous to the step of writing the second frame data.